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General Assembly

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Forty-third session
Vienna, 7-16 June 2000

Provisional agenda for the forty-third session

To be convened at the United Nations Office at Vienna on Wednesday, 7 June 2000, at 10 a.m.

I. Provisional agenda

1. Adoption of the agenda.
2. Election of officers.
3. Statement by the Chairman.
4. General exchange of views.
5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes.
6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session.
7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session.
8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status.
9. Other matters.
10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly.

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II. Annotations*

1. Adoption of the agenda

2. Election of officers

In paragraph 9 of its resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly took note of the agreement reached by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its fortieth session on the composition of the bureaux of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies for the second term starting in 2000, in the context of the implementation of the measures relating to the working methods of those bodies,[1] which had been endorsed by the Assembly in paragraph 11 of its resolution 52/56 of 10 December 1997, and noted that consultations among delegations and regional groups would be held concerning the members of the bureaux for the second term with a view to reaching consensus on the matter by the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee. In paragraph 10 of resolution 54/67, the Assembly agreed that the Committee should elect its officers at the beginning of its forty-third session, in accordance with consensus agreement to be reached among the members of the Committee.

3. Statement by the Chairman

Following the adoption of the agenda by the Committee and the organization of work, the Chairman will make a statement reviewing developments of relevance to the work of the Committee that have taken place since its forty-second session. The indicative schedule of work, which will be followed with flexibility, is contained in the annex to the present document.

4. General exchange of views

The Committee will begin its substantive work with a general exchange of views.

5. Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes

In paragraph 29 of its resolution 54/67, the General Assembly requested the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, as a matter of priority, of ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes and to report thereon to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session.

6. Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session

At its thirty-seventh session, in 2000, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, in accordance with paragraph 15 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, considered the substantive items listed below.

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* The annotations and the indicative schedule of work are not part of the agenda to be adopted by the Committee.

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), annex I.

The United Nations Programme on Space Applications and the coordination of space activities within the United Nations system following the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III)

In accordance with paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee reconvened the Working Group of the Whole under this item to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III).

The Working Group of the Whole made recommendations concerning the following issues relating to the implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III, as reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, annex II, paras. 3-37), which was endorsed by the Subcommittee: (a) mechanism to implement the strategy to address global challenges referred to in the Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development; (b) organization, during the session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, of a symposium to strengthen the partnership of the Subcommittee with industry; (c) promotion of the participation of youth in space activities and the establishment of a consultative mechanism within the framework of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space to facilitate the continued participation of young people in cooperative space-related activities; (d) celebration of World Space Week from 4 to 10 October; (e) Trust Fund for the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and new and innovative funding sources to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III; (f) identification and promotion of the use of appropriate space technologies to meet the needs of programmes and organizations of the United Nations system; and (g) strengthening of the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications.

The Working Group of the Whole agreed that the symposium to be held during the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee to strengthen its partnership with industry, should focus on the emerging applications of global navigation satellite systems in improving the productivity of national and regional infrastructure (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 12). The Working Group of the Whole noted that the Youth Advisory Council, a voluntary body, had been established pursuant to a recommendation of the Space Generation Forum held during UNISPACE III and agreed that the Youth Advisory Council could be granted observer status with the Committee (A/AC.105/736, annex II, paras. 18 and 19). The Working Group of the Whole also recommended that the Office for Outer Space Affairs should develop, in consultation with interested Member States and with the assistance of the Spaceweek International Association, a plan to celebrate World Space Week, for consideration by the Committee at its forty-third session (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 23). The plan will be made available to the Committee during its forty-third session.

In paragraph 11 of its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly requested the Secretary-General to recommend measures to ensure that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was provided with adequate resources to implement the actions listed in the resolution based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III. The Committee will have before it a document prepared by the Secretariat containing plans of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement those actions with indications of their programme budget implications (A/AC.105/L.224).

During the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee, the Working Group of the Whole recommended that a colloquium on the theme "The human dimension in space science and technology applications" should be organized during the forty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, in 2001, with the participation of eminent scientists, sociologists, philosophers and others (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 45).

The report of the Subcommittee contains a review of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and its activities for 1999 and 2000 and a proposed programme of activities for 2001, which it recommended for approval (A/AC.105/736, paras. 34-51).

The Subcommittee continued to stress the necessity of ensuring the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system. It noted with satisfaction that the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities had held its twentieth session at the United Nations Office at Vienna from 2 to 4 February 2000 and that the report on its deliberations (A/AC.105/727) and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system: programme of work for 2000 and 2001 and future years" (A/AC.105/726) were before the Subcommittee. The Subcommittee noted that the next session of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities was scheduled to be held in Vienna from 22 to 24 January 2001 (A/AC.105/736, paras. 56 and 57).

Matters relating to remote sensing of the Earth by satellites, including applications for developing countries and monitoring of the Earth's environment

The views expressed on this item at the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 69-74).

Use of nuclear power sources in outer space

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee considered this item under the work plan it had adopted at its thirty-fifth session (A/AC.105/697 and Corr.1, annex III, appendix). The Subcommittee had before it the working papers submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.233 and 234), the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (A/AC.105/C.1/L.231) and the United States of America (A/AC.105/C.1/L.229), as well as a note by the Secretariat containing information submitted by Member States in response to paragraph 31 of General Assembly resolution 53/45 of 3 December 1998 (A/AC.105/731).

In accordance with paragraph 19 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, the Subcommittee reconvened its Working Group on the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space. The report of the Working Group was endorsed by the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, paras. 82 and 83, and annex III). Through the Working Group, the Subcommittee conducted the work for the first year of the work plan and identified terrestrial processes and technical standards that might be relevant to nuclear power sources, including factors distinguishing nuclear power sources in outer space from terrestrial nuclear applications (A/AC.105/736, para. 75).

The Subcommittee noted that the Committee, at its fortieth session, had recalled its agreement that the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space, which had been adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 47/68 of 14 December 1992, should remain in their current form until amended and that,

before amendment, proper consideration should be given to the aims and objectives of any proposed revision.[2] The Subcommittee agreed that, at the present time, revision of the Principles was not warranted and that, until a firm scientific and technical consensus had been reached on their revision, it would be inappropriate to pass on the topic to the Legal Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, para. 79).

International cooperation in human spaceflight

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee began its consideration of this new item as a single issue/item for discussion. The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 85-88).

Presentations on new launch systems and ventures

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee began its consideration of this new item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee had before it a working paper by the United States that presented an overview of the International Space Station (A/AC.105/C.1/L.235). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 90-93).

Space debris

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration, on a priority basis, of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee took note of the replies from Member States submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution 53/45 (A/AC.105/731).

The Subcommittee recalled that, at its forty-second session, the Committee had agreed that the Subcommittee, at its thirty-seventh session, should review international application of International Telecommunication Union standards and Inter-Agency Space Debris Coordination Committee (IADC) recommendations concerning the disposal of satellites in geosynchronous orbit at the end of their useful life. The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction the report prepared by the Secretariat in response to the request by the Committee to compile relevant data on space objects in geosynchronous orbit (A/AC.105/734).

The Subcommittee noted with satisfaction that, following its invitation, a representative of IADC had made a technical presentation on its work. The Subcommittee agreed that IADC should be invited to make a technical presentation on its work on an annual basis (A/AC.105/736, para. 100).

Regarding its future work on the issue of space debris, the Subcommittee took note of the working papers and conference room papers submitted by the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.1/L.232), the United States (A/AC.105/C.1/L.236), Germany (A/AC.105/C.1/L.238), France, on behalf of Austria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Germany, Greece, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Italy, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden and the United Kingdom (A/AC.105/C.1/L.239), and Japan (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.11). Having considered a conference room paper submitted by Canada, France, Germany, Greece, Italy, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.18), the Subcommittee

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/52/20), para. 78.

agreed to continue its work on space debris in 2001, as reflected in the report of the Working Group of the Whole (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 42).

Examination of the physical nature and technical attributes of the geostationary orbit and of its utilization and applications, including, inter alia, in the field of space communications, as well as other questions relating to developments in space communications, taking particular account of the needs and interests of developing countries

The Scientific and Technical Subcommittee continued its consideration of this agenda item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee recalled that the Committee, at its forty-first session,[3] had agreed that the principles as reflected in its report were universally accepted by the scientific and technical community and should be applied to future deliberations on the geostationary orbit. The Subcommittee took note of the working paper submitted by the Czech Republic (A/AC.105/C.1/L.230), in which it was stated that an important implication could be drawn from those principles. The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/736, paras. 115-121).

Draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee

Pursuant to paragraph 18 of General Assembly resolution 54/67, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee requested the Working Group of the Whole (see the second paragraph to the annotation to agenda item 6 above) to consider the future work of the Subcommittee in the light of the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

The Working Group of the Whole had before it proposals submitted by Canada, on behalf of Australia, Austria, India, the Russian Federation and the United States (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.3/Rev.1), China, India and Morocco (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.7) and Japan (A/AC.105/C.1/2000/CRP.11) for agenda items to be considered under work plans. Proposals for single issues and items for discussion were also made by Egypt, Italy and the United States.

The Working Group of the Whole recommended the draft provisional agenda for the thirty-eighth session of the Subcommittee contained in its report (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 42). With regard to a new item entitled "Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and among United Nations specialized agencies and bodies", which had been recommended for consideration by the Subcommittee at its session in 2001 under a three-year work plan, the Working Group of the Whole agreed that, at its forty-third session, the Committee should recommend to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session that it request all United Nations entities concerned to provide the Office for Outer Space Affairs with appropriate information in response to a list of questions that the Office would prepare for approval by the Committee at its forty-third session, with the objective of increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the space activities of the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system (A/AC.105/736, annex II,

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-third Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/53/20), para. 107.

para. 40). The Committee will have before it the list of questions in document A/AC.105/L.223.

The Working Group of the Whole recommended that the Committee on Space Research and the International Astronautical Federation, in liaison with Member States, should be invited to organize a symposium on the theme "Terrestrial hazards from outer space objects and phenomena", with as wide a participation as possible, to be held during the first week of the thirty-seventh session of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/736, annex II, para. 44).

Documents:

(a) Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session (A/AC.105/736);

(b) Note by the Secretariat on the celebration of World Space Week (A/AC.105/2000/CRP.3);

(c) Note by the Secretariat on the plans of the Office for Outer Space Affairs to implement recommendations of UNISPACE III (A/AC.105/L.224);

(d) Note by the Secretariat submitting a draft list of questions to be circulated to organizations of the United Nations system (A/AC.105/L.223).

7. Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session

At its thirty-ninth session, the Legal Subcommittee considered the substantive items listed below, in accordance with paragraph 4 of General Assembly resolution 54/67.

Status of the international treaties governing the uses of outer space

The Legal Subcommittee began its consideration of this new agenda item as a regular item. The Subcommittee had before it the updated information contained in the addendum to *United Nations Treaties and Principles on Outer Space: a Commemorative Edition* (A/AC.105/722/Add.1). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 24 and 25).

Information on the activities of international organizations relating to space law

The Legal Subcommittee began its consideration of this new agenda item as a regular item. The Subcommittee had before it two conference room papers (A/AC.105/C.2/2000/CRP.4 and 10), which contained compilations of reports from organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations on their activities relating to space law. The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 32-34).

Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union

The Legal Subcommittee, through its Working Group on agenda item 4, entitled "Matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and to the character and utilization of the geostationary orbit, including consideration of ways and means to ensure the rational and equitable use of the geostationary orbit without prejudice to the role of the International Telecommunication Union", continued its consideration of this item as a regular item.

On the basis of recommendations made by the Working Group, the Subcommittee reached agreement on the question of the utilization of the geostationary orbit, as reflected in document A/AC.105/C.2/L.221, the text of which is attached to the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/738, annex III).

The Subcommittee agreed that this item should remain as a regular item on its agenda. However, the Working Group on the item would consider only matters relating to the definition and delimitation of outer space and would not consider the issue of equitable access to the geostationary orbit. That arrangement could be re-examined in due course, in accordance with the normal procedure of the Subcommittee, if further developments warranted (A/AC.105/738, para. 108).

The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (see A/AC.105/738, para. [48], and annex [I]). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 40-43).

Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item as a single issue/item for discussion. The Subcommittee recalled its recommendation, endorsed by the Committee at its forty-second session,[4] and decided not to re-establish its Working Group on agenda item 7, entitled "Review and possible revision of the Principles Relevant to the Use of Nuclear Power Sources in Outer Space" (A/AC.105/738, para. 53). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 55 and 56).

Review of the status of the five international legal instruments governing outer space

The Legal Subcommittee continued its consideration of this item in accordance with the work plan that it had adopted at its thirty-sixth session. The Subcommittee noted that it should, on the basis of the recommendations of the Working Group on this item, which had been convened at its thirty-eighth session, consider and implement as appropriate the measures considered adequate to achieve the widest and fullest adherence to the treaties relating to outer space.

The Subcommittee endorsed the recommendations made by the Working Group in order to achieve the fullest adherence to the five international instruments governing

[4] Ibid., *Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 20* and corrigendum (A/54/20 and Corr.1), para. 90.

outer space (A/AC.105/738, para. 75). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 63-74).

Review of the concept of the "launching State"

The Legal Subcommittee began its consideration of this item in accordance with the work plan adopted by the Committee[5] and established a working group to consider the item. The first year of the work on this item was allocated to special presentations on new launch systems and ventures.

The Working Group heard presentations by France, Germany, Japan, the Russian Federation and the United States. A compilation of those presentations was distributed in a conference room paper (A/AC.105/C.2/2000/CRP.12). For purposes of information, the Working Group also had before it a compilation of the presentations on new launch systems and ventures made during the thirty-seventh session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (A/AC.105/C.2/2000/CRP.8).

The Working Group recommended that its discussion under the second year of the work plan should include consideration in greater detail of the observations made during the first year of the work plan and that it should hear presentations on the practice of space law, including presentations on national space legislation and other relevant texts. The Working Group requested the Secretariat to prepare a compilation of documents relevant to the agenda item, with the assistance, where necessary, of Member States and international organizations (A/AC.105/738, annex II, para. 15).

The Subcommittee requested the Secretariat to prepare a paper setting out the key elements of existing national space legislation that, in the Secretariat's judgement, illustrated how States were implementing, as appropriate, their responsibilities to authorize and provide continuing supervision of non-governmental entities in outer space (A/AC.105/738, para. 87).

The Subcommittee endorsed the report of the Working Group (A/AC.105/738, para. 89). The views expressed by the Subcommittee are reflected in its report (A/AC.105/738, paras. 80-85).

Proposals to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space for new items to be considered by the Legal Subcommittee at its fortieth session

The Legal Subcommittee recalled its deliberations at its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth sessions on new items for its agenda (A/AC.105/738, paras. 94 and 95). At its thirty-ninth session, the Subcommittee had before it additional proposals for new single issues/items for discussion to be included in the agenda of its fortieth session made by Argentina, Australia, Italy, the Russian Federation (A/AC.105/C.2/L.220) and South Africa. The Subcommittee agreed on the items to be proposed to the Committee for inclusion in the agenda of the fortieth session of the Subcommittee as contained in its report (A/AC.105/738, para. 113). The discussions on the matter are reflected in the report of the Subcommittee (A/AC.105/738, paras. 91-111).

[5] Ibid., para. 114.

Document: Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session (A/AC.105/738).

8. Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status

In paragraph 30 of its resolution 54/67, the General Assembly requested the Committee to resume its consideration, at its forty-third session, of the item entitled "Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status".

9. Other matters

The Committee may wish to discuss other matters as appropriate.

10. Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

Annex

Schedule of work*

Date	*Agenda item*	*Morning*	*Agenda item*	*Afternoon*
Wednesday, 7 June 2000	1	Adoption of the agenda	4	General exchange of views
	2	Election of officers	5	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes
	3	Statement by the Chairman		
	4	General exchange of views		
Thursday, 8 June 2000	4	General exchange of views	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session
	5	Ways and means of maintaining outer space for peaceful purposes		
Friday, 9 June 2000	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session
	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session
Tuesday, 13 June 2000	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session	6	Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session
	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session
Wednesday, 14 June 2000	7	Report of the Legal Subcommittee on its thirty-ninth session	8	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status
Thursday, 15 June 2000	8	Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status	9	Other matters
	9	Other matters		
Friday, 16 June 2000	10	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly	10	Report of the Committee to the General Assembly

* At its thirty-eighth session, the Committee agreed that member States would continue to be provided with an indicative schedule of work, which would be without prejudice to the actual timing of consideration of specific agenda items (*Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 20* (A/50/20), para. 169 (b)).

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
Forty-third session
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Item 6 of the provisional agenda*
Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session

Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and among United Nations specialized agencies and bodies: draft list of questions to be circulated to organizations of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretariat

1. At its thirty-seventh session, held in Vienna from 7 to 18 February 2000, the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space endorsed (see A/AC.105/736, para. 123) the recommendation of its Working Group of the Whole, reconvened in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/67 of 6 December 1999, that a new item, entitled "Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and among United Nations specialized agencies and bodies", should be considered by the Subcommittee commencing with its thirty-eighth session, in 2001, according to the following three-year work plan:

2001 An analysis of the current levels of usage of space applications and services within the United Nations system, including one day for presentations by appropriate United Nations entities and Member States that undertake cooperative activities with those entities; and an examination of the utility of space applications and services for increasing, with regard to space activities,

* A/AC.105/L.222.

the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the operations of United Nations entities

2002 An identification of the barriers to greater use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and an examination of specific means and mechanisms to eliminate those barriers

2003 The development of specific and concrete proposals and, as appropriate, action plans for strengthening inter-agency cooperation in the use of space within the United Nations system and for increasing the use of space applications and services within the system in general and among particular United Nations entities

It was also agreed that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space, at its forty-third session, should recommend to the General Assembly at its fifty-fifth session that it request all United Nations entities concerned to provide the Office for Outer Space Affairs with appropriate information in response to a list of questions that the Office would prepare for approval by the Committee at its forty-third session, with the objective of increasing the effectiveness, efficiency and coordination of the space activities of the agencies and bodies of the United Nations system.

2. A draft list of questions prepared by the Secretariat for approval by the Committee is contained in the annex to the present document.

Annex

Draft list of questions to be circulated to organizations of the United Nations system

A. General questions

1. What are the mandates of your organization?
2. What are the major objectives of your organization to be achieved within the next five years?

B. Status of the use of space science and technology

3. Does your organization utilize space-related science and technology and its applications to achieve its objectives? (If the answer is "NO", go on to question 7.)
4. The annual report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of outer space activities within the United Nations system contains detailed information on activities planned for the following few years as provided by various organizations of the system. The latest report is contained in document A/AC.105/726. Does the report contain information on how your organization utilizes space applications in achieving its objectives? If not, please provide a brief description of how space applications are utilized by your organization.
5. Is your organization planning to expand the use of space applications in its activities? If the answer is "NO", please indicate why not and go on to question 11.
6. In which areas of activities does your organization plan to expand the use of space applications and what could be the obstacles to doing so? (Go on to question 11.)
7. **Please answer this question only if you answered "NO" to question 3**. The Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III), held in Vienna in July 1999, identified, as reflected in its report (A/CONF.184/6), many areas of our daily activities where space science and technology can assist in the solution of problems of regional or global significance. Some of those areas are listed below for your reference. In which areas could the use of space applications assist your organization in achieving its objectives in an effective and efficient manner? (If the answer is "NONE", go on to question 11.)

   (a) Protecting the environment:

   (i) Enhancing scientific knowledge of Earth and its environment;

   (ii) Enhancing management of environment and natural resources:

      a. Weather and climate forecasting;

      b. Disaster management;

      c. Management of resources;

      d. Disease control and health services;

(b) Facilitating and utilizing communications;

(c) Improving and using positioning and location capabilities;

(d) Encouraging education and training in science and technology;

(e) Developing and strengthening information infrastructures.

8. What needs to be done in order to integrate space applications into the work programme of your organization in the areas that you identified under question 7 above?

9. Does your organization use space-related technologies, such as remote interpretation/translation and tele-conferencing, to improve its working methods? (If the answer is "YES", go on to question 11.)

10. What can be done to increase the cost-efficiency of the operation of your organization through the use of space-related technologies?

C. Capacity-building in promoting sustainable development

11. Does your organization carry out activities to strengthen capacities of its member States, in particular developing countries, to promote sustainable development and sustained economic growth? (If the answer is "NO", go on to question 14.)

12. As emphasized by UNISPACE III, the use of space science and technology contributes significantly to promoting sustainable development. Is the use of space science and technology addressed in the activities of your organization relating to capacity-building? (If the answer is "YES", go on to question 14.)

13. Why is the use of space science and technology not addressed in the activities of your organization relating to capacity-building? Is it because the mandates of your organization have little or no relevance to space-related activities, because your organization was not aware of the benefits of space science and technology for promoting sustainable development or for some other reason?

D. Promoting international cooperation through development of an international legal regime

14. Does your organization have mandates relating to the development/promotion of an international legal regime and/or international standards/recommended practices? (If the answer is "NO", go on to question 18.)

15. In which areas does your organization contribute to the development/promotion of an international legal regime and/or international standards/recommended practices?

16. Are space-related activities being covered or will they be covered in the foreseeable future? (If the answer is "NO", go on to question 18.)

17. How are space-related activities affected by the international legal regime and/or international standards/recommended practices being established/promoted through your organization?

E. Coordination of space-related activities within the United Nations system

18. The Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities meets once a year to coordinate space-related activities in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in planning future endeavours and to explore possibilities of carrying out ongoing and planned activities through joint inter-agency efforts. Its latest report is contained in document A/AC.105/727. The Inter-Agency Meeting also reviews and finalizes the report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities being planned by various organizations of the United Nations system. (The latest report of the Secretary-General is contained in document A/AC.105/726, as referred to in question 4.) Has your organization participated in the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities on a regular basis in recent years by attending the annual session and/or contributing to the annual report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of space-related activities? (If the answer is "YES", go on to question 21.)

19. Is your organization aware of space-related activities being undertaken by other organizations of the United Nations system and of efforts being made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies in the peaceful uses of outer space? If the answer is "YES", to what extent?

20. What are your reasons for not participating in the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities?

21. On the basis of information provided in the latest report of the Secretary-General on the coordination of outer space activities (A/AC.105/726), in which of the following areas of activity could inter-agency coordination be enhanced further?

(a) *Education and training activities*:

(i) Remote sensing and geographic information systems (GIS);

(ii) Satellite communications;

(iii) Disaster management;

(iv) Other;

(b) *Operational activities*:

(i) Remote sensing and GIS;

(ii) Earth observation;

(iii) Climate research;

(iv) Meteorology and operational hydrology;

(v) Environment management (including activities relating to environment assessment, environment information systems and environment decision support systems);

(vi) Management of natural resources;

(vii) Development of information infrastructure;

(viii) Distance learning/education and tele-medicine;

(ix) Navigation satellite systems;

(x) Disaster management (including early warning, prevention, mitigation, relief and rehabilitation);

(xi) Other;

(c) *Dissemination of information*:

(i) Remote sensing and GIS;

(ii) Climate research;

(iii) Disaster management;

(iv) Space science and technology (general information);

(v) Other.

22. What could be the obstacles to enhancing inter-agency coordination in the areas of activity selected under question 21 above?

F. Opportunities for the future

23. In his report entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century",[1] the Secretary-General proposed new initiatives to be taken for the twenty-first century for consideration by heads of State at the Millennium Summit, to be held from 6 to 8 September 2000. Space applications can make significant contributions to implementing some of the key proposals contained in the report, such as the establishment of a Health InterNetwork, a disaster response initiative and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. Is your organization interested in participating in activities that may be undertaken to implement some of these proposals with the use of space applications?

24. In addition to the activities being conducted through the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, what actions could be taken and by whom in order for the United Nations system to strengthen inter-agency efforts to expand the benefits of space science and technology, in particular for sustainable development and sustained economic growth?

Notes

[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.16.

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Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

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Report of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee on its thirty-seventh session

Implementation of the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III): plan of action proposed by the Office for Outer Space Affairs

Note by the Secretariat

I. Introduction

1. Space science and technology can make significant contributions to promoting sustainable development and sustained economic growth. The Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (UNISPACE III),[1] held in Vienna from 19 to 30 July 1999, identified many areas where space science and technology could contribute to solving problems of regional or global significance, such as protection of the environment, management of natural resources and disaster management, as well as the establishment and strengthening of communications and information infrastructure, in particular in rural and remote areas. The resolution entitled "The Space Millennium: Vienna Declaration on Space and Human Development",[2] which was adopted by UNISPACE III, contains the nucleus of a strategy to address global challenges in the future through action in the following areas: (a) protecting the Earth's environment and managing its resources; (b) using space applications for human security, development and welfare; (c) advancing scientific knowledge of space and protecting the space environment; (d) enhancing education and training opportunities and ensuring public awareness of the importance of space activities; and (e) strengthening and repositioning of space activities in the United Nations system.

2. In his report entitled "We the peoples: the role of the United Nations in the twenty-first century",[3] the Secretary-General proposed new initiatives to be undertaken for the twenty-first century for consideration by heads of State at the Millennium Summit, to be held from

* A/AC.105/L.222.

6 to 8 September 2000. Turning the strategy contained in the Vienna Declaration into concrete action will yield tangible results in increasing the benefits of space science and technology and its applications for the betterment of humanity and will contribute to implementing some of the key proposals contained in the Secretary-General's report, such as the establishment of a Health InterNetwork, a disaster response initiative and the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment.

3. In its resolution 54/68 of 6 December 1999, the General Assembly endorsed the Vienna Declaration and urged Governments, organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system as well as intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration; called upon all concerned to implement the recommendations made by UNISPACE III; and requested the Secretary-General to recommend measures to ensure that the Office for Outer Space Affairs was provided with adequate resources to implement the actions listed in paragraph 11 of the resolution based on the recommendations of UNISPACE III.

II. Scope and purpose of the plan of action

4. As the body responsible for implementing the programme on the peaceful uses of outer space, the Office for Outer Space Affairs is committed to assisting Member States as well as space-related intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations in their efforts to translate into reality the possibilities and expectations expressed at UNISPACE III. It is in that spirit that the Office has prepared the plan of action to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III contained in the present document. In carrying out its activities relating to tele-health, disaster management and management of environment and natural resources, the Office will work towards increasing synergy with efforts made by other bodies and organizations of the United Nations system taking initiatives in the twenty-first century as a result of the Millennium Summit.

5. In its plan of action, the Office is proposing initiatives that would strengthen the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in the formulation of policy and the implementation of international cooperation in space activities. In addition to strengthening the capacity-building activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, which focuses on the use of space science and technology, the Office is proposing to initiate activities, pursuant to the recommendations made in the Vienna Declaration, to support the Committee's efforts in the development of space law.

6. The Office is also proposing ways to increase synergy among the following three major components of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications:[4] (a) organization of workshops, seminars and training courses; (b) technical assistance and advisory services; and (c) administration of the long-term fellowship programme. All the activities of the Programme are considered important elements in the effort to achieve concrete objectives in priority thematic areas and, to the extent practicable, would be carried out jointly with space-related national, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector.

7. In order to support the work of the Committee and, in particular, its Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, the Office is proposing activities to promote the use of space science and technology within the United Nations system and to enhance further coordination among organizations of the United Nations system in space-related activities.

8. Also as part of its support of the work of the Committee, the Office is proposing to take new initiatives, in particular to increase the awareness of the general public and young people of the benefits of space activities and to encourage space-related industry and non-governmental organizations to play a larger role in United Nations efforts to promote the peaceful uses of outer space.

9. Some actions recommended by UNISPACE III have been part of the work programme of the Office and have been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001,[5] as approved by the General Assembly in its resolutions 54/249 and 54/250 of 23 December 1999. With respect to actions that have not been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, the Office is recommending, in response to the request contained in paragraph 11 of Assembly resolution 54/68, the measures described in section III below.

III. Measures to implement the recommendations of the Third United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

A. Strengthening the role of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees in promoting international cooperation in the use of outer space

10. In the Vienna Declaration, the States participating in UNISPACE III recognized the role played by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in the formulation of policy and the implementation of international cooperation in the field of space and called for action to reaffirm the role of the Committee in leading global efforts in the exploration and peaceful use of outer space relating to significant global issues. In order to assist the Committee and its subsidiary bodies in strengthening their role in that regard, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities:

(a) A biannual global survey of existing mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities (2001);[6]

(b) Creation and maintenance of a web site on the home page of the Office in order to disseminate the results of the survey of existing mechanisms for international cooperation in space activities (2001);

(c) An analytical study to identify areas of space-related activities where new and innovative mechanisms for cooperation are required (2001);[6]

(d) Creation of a database on national space policies (2001);[6]

(e) Organization of a round table of legislators who are advocates of space activities to discuss common goals to be pursued in space endeavours and to exchange views on the role of the Committee (2001);

(f) Organization of a colloquium on the human dimension in space science and technology applications during the forty-fourth session of the Committee (2001).

B. Initiating a capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law

11. The Vienna Declaration called for action to promote the efforts of the Committee in the development of space law by inviting States to ratify or accede to international instruments in this area and by considering the further development of space law to meet the needs of the international community. UNISPACE III also recognized the need to strengthen the role of the Committee and its Legal Subcommittee as mechanisms for the formulation of necessary and appropriate principles and rules regulating outer space in order to meet the requirements of a rapidly advancing field of human activity. The Office proposes to carry out the following activities:

(a) To enhance the understanding of Member States of the international legal instruments governing space activities and of the legal implications of emerging space science and technology applications and commercialization of space activities;

(b) To increase the availability of information and documents relating to space law for dissemination to Member States, international organizations and the general public:

(i) Organization of a workshop on legal aspects of space activities (2001);[6]

(ii) Expanded research on the national and international regulations affecting space-related activities (2001);

(iii) Development, maintenance and improvement of a database on national space laws (2001).[6]

C. Strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications

12. In its resolution 54/68, the General Assembly called for strengthening the activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications and listed a number of activities to be included in the Programme.

1. Organization of workshops, seminars, symposia and training courses

13. UNISPACE III identified several topics for workshops and training courses to be organized, such as the use of satellite communications and Earth observation

data for disaster management and search and rescue operations, tele-education and tele-health, satellite communications, basic space science, monitoring of the environment and modelling change, remote sensing for educators and management of natural resources. In addition to organizing workshops and training courses on those topics for decision makers and experts from developing countries, the Office proposes to carry out the following activity, pursuant to the Vienna Declaration: development and implementation of a training module, in particular for developing countries, to make effective use of satellite communications for distance education, to promote literacy and to reduce information gaps (2000-2001).

14. In order to initiate follow-up pilot projects using space applications for promoting sustainable development in the home countries or regions of the participants of workshops and training courses organized by the Programme, the Office proposes to carry out the following activity, pursuant to the recommendations of UNISPACE III: implementation of a new programme to promote the successful use of knowledge acquired at training courses by university educators in the education curricula at their universities by providing grants to support ongoing pilot projects and practical demonstration exercises (Technology Outreach Programme (TOPS)) (4 grants in 2001).

2. Technical assistance and advisory services

15. In order to provide support to the regional centres for space science and technology education affiliated with the United Nations, including the Network of Space Science and Technology Education and Research Institutions for Central Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, in particular to support their operational activities, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities, pursuant to the recommendations made by UNISPACE III:

(a) Provision of technical assistance and advice to the regional centres for space science and technology education and the Network, in the following (2000-2001):

(i) Planning and implementing training activities;

(ii) Promoting the establishment of cooperative agreements between the centres and the Network and donor countries, international organizations and private industry;

(iii) Promoting the acquisition by the centres and the Network of audio, visual and available on-line educational materials;

(iv) Achieving a significant representation of regional and international lecturers;

(v) Directing some of the activities of the centres and the Network to areas of regional and international concern;

(vi) Preparing cost-sharing proposals to funding institutions for initial operations;

(vii) Establishing contacts with industry that would lead to partnerships in areas of common interest;

(viii) Designing an effective means of disseminating information about the accomplishments of the centres and the Network;

(ix) Utilizing educational materials and training possibilities available through the Internet, as well as in exchanging materials and programme experiences among themselves;

(b) Preparation of a three-year work plan to support the education programmes of the centres and the Network and to strengthen their infrastructure and operation (2001);

(c) Provision of nominal financial assistance to the centres and the Network for their operation (5 centres and the Network, 2001).

16. In order to initiate a programme to promote the use of satellite communications and Earth observation data for disaster management by user institutions in developing countries, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities, pursuant to resolution 54/68 and the recommendations of UNISPACE III:

(a) Development of the first of a series of modules for integrating space technology in disaster-specific management (e.g. floods, forest fires and landslides), consisting of technical, administrative and policy requirements and a step-by-step procedure to incorporate space technology into disaster management in a functional manner, including training required for officials and staff of civil protection authorities (2001);

(b) Development of plans and proposals to implement pilot projects in developing countries to use space technology in disaster management (2001).[7]

17. In order to develop a programme to promote the use of Earth observation data in the areas of natural resource management and environmental monitoring by user institutions in developing countries, the Office proposes to carry

out the following activities, pursuant to resolution 54/68 and the recommendations of UNISPACE III:

(a) Surveys to identify ongoing national and regional development projects that could benefit from the use of optical, infra-red or radar data and a needs assessment study to identify the type and coverage of satellite images required by the identified user institutions in developing countries (2001);

(b). Establishment and distribution of a comprehensive list of distributors of data from Earth observation satellites, as well as of analysed information, including the models used (2001);

(c). Provision of satellite data and hardware/software to user institutes to initiate pilot projects or strengthen ongoing pilot projects to use Earth observation data (2 projects in 2001).

18. In order to strengthen technical advisory services in astronomy and the planetary sciences, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities, pursuant to resolution 54/68, the Vienna Declaration and the recommendations of UNISPACE III:

(a) Coordination of the establishment of a network to provide access to information on national and international activities relating to basic space science (2001);

(b) Facilitating the participation of scientists and engineers from developing countries in major space-related international projects and programmes (2001);

(c) Coordination of the distribution of educational materials relating to basic space science (2001);

(d) Promotion of greater involvement of scientists and observatories with the capability to observe the skies of the southern hemisphere for near-Earth objects (2001);

(e) Organization of an expert meeting on near-Earth objects every 2 to 3 years (2001);

(f) Ensuring the involvement of developing countries in the research and observation of near-Earth objects through the expansion of the small telescope network (2001);

(g) Development of programmes of information and training for the benefit of developing countries in order:

(i) To assist scientists in responding to opportunities to participate in space missions (2000-2001);

(ii) To benefit educators and others interested in the broader issues related to space science and planetary exploration (2000-2001).

19. UNISPACE III stressed the social and economic benefits of the satellite navigation and positioning systems and the Vienna Declaration called for action to improve the efficiency and security of transport, search and rescue, geodesy and other activities by promoting the enhancement of, universal access to and compatibility of space-based navigation and positioning systems. In order to increase the capacity of Member States, in particular developing countries, to benefit from global positioning and navigation systems by incorporating their use into research and operational activities, the Office proposes to carry out the following activity: development and implementation of a training module, consisting of workshops or seminars, possibly to be followed by pilot projects, focusing on capacity-building in the use of global positioning and navigation systems in various areas of application (2001).[6]

3. Long-term fellowships

20. In order to support the initiatives taken by the participants of the long-term fellowship programmes after successfully completing their training and returning to their home countries, the Office proposes to carry out the following activity, pursuant to resolution 54/68: implementation of pilot projects by providing grants to selected participants of the long-term fellowship programmes (5 grants in 2001).

D. Promoting the use of space technologies within the United Nations system

21. The Vienna Declaration called for action to encourage the increased use of space-related systems and services by the specialized agencies and programmes of the United Nations system and to strengthen the coordination of mutually beneficial activities between the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and other United Nations entities. In that connection, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities, pursuant to the recommendations of UNISPACE III and in order to facilitate the work of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee in its consideration of the item entitled "Means and mechanisms for strengthening inter-agency cooperation and increasing the use of space applications and services within the United Nations system and among United Nations specialized agencies and bodies":

(a) Enhancement of the coordination and cooperation among the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subcommittees, the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Administrative Coordination Committee and its machinery and the Committee on Earth Observation Satellites (CEOS) on issues relating to global warming, climate change, human health problems and sustainable development by preparing information notes on the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and studies, as required, to contribute to the work of the Commission on Sustainable Development, the Administrative Coordination Committee and CEOS (2000-2001);

(b) Survey and analysis of the status of the use of space science and technology and its applications within the United Nations system to identify those organizations which have not yet benefited from space applications (2001);

(c) Preparation of proposals for consideration by those organizations to incorporate space applications into their activities to increase efficiency and effectiveness (2001).

22. In addition, in order to maximize the benefits of advanced information technologies in enhancing inter-agency cooperation in space-related activities, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities:

(a) Investigation of the usefulness of emerging information technologies for the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities and development of strategies to expand the use of selected advanced information technologies within the United Nations system to facilitate the work of the Inter-Agency Meeting (2001);

(b) Enrichment of the programme content of the inter-agency web site to include the most up-to-date scientific and technical aerospace information and the administration of the inter-agency web site on a regular basis (2001);

(c) Development of strategies to increase the number of users of the inter-agency web site (2001).

E. Establishing and strengthening the partnership with industry

23. The Vienna Declaration called for action to encourage the increased use of space-related systems and services by the private sector around the world in order to support United Nations efforts to promote the exploration and peaceful uses of outer space. In its resolution 54/68, the General Assembly called for the organization of a one-day symposium to strengthen the partnership of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee with industry; and identified a number of actions to strengthen the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, including the promotion of cooperation in space applications projects between government establishments, universities and research institutions and private industry. Pursuant to those requests, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities:

(a) Preparation of plans of the Office and proposals for pilot projects that may be funded by space-related companies for the benefit of developing countries (1 or 2 proposals in 2001);

(b) Preparation of a booklet compiling project proposals by research institutes and government agencies of developing countries for distribution to space-related industry, international funding institutions and donor agencies (1 booklet in 2001);

(c) Presentation of proposals at meetings of space-related industry (2001);

(d) Organization of an industry symposium during the annual session of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee (2001);[6]

(e) Presentation of the plans and proposals of the Office at meetings of space-related industry (1 or 2 meetings per annum);

(f) Inclusion of industry representatives as lecturers and participants in the workshops and seminars of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications (2000-2001).

F. Strengthening the partnership with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

24. In its resolution 54/68, the General Assembly urged intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and industries conducting space-related activities to take the necessary action for the effective implementation of the Vienna Declaration. The Vienna Declaration called for action to encourage all States and international organizations to strengthen their efforts in promoting the peaceful uses of outer space for the benefit and in the interest of all States by involving civil society. In this connection, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities to coordinate with non-governmental entities and support their implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III:

(a) Presentation of plans and proposals of the Office at meetings of non-governmental entities to discuss their implementation of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and to ensure that the work of non-governmental entities in that regard is in line with and complements the work of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space (2001);

(b) Provision of support to international non-governmental, non-profit organizations to carry out their pilot projects to implement the recommendations of UNISPACE III (1 or 2 projects in 2001);[6]

(c) Provision of support to an initiative being undertaken under the auspices of the International Astronautical Federation to engage non-governmental entities in the implementation of selected recommendations resulting from UNISPACE III (2000-2001).

G. Initiating a public outreach programme and a programme for young people

25. In its resolution 54/68, the General Assembly called for action to strengthen the United Nations Programme on Space Applications by, among other things, carrying out activities for the general public and young people to provide opportunities, to learn about space activities and their socio-economic benefits. The Vienna Declaration called for action to increase awareness among the general public of the importance of peaceful space activities for improving the common economic and social welfare of humanity and for action to provide children and youth with opportunities to learn more about space science and technology and their importance to human development and to participate fully in activities related to space science and technology. In this connection, the Office proposes to carry out the following activities, on the basis of the recommendations of UNISPACE III and bearing in mind that World Space Week, to be celebrated each year in accordance with resolution 54/68, would provide opportunities to increase public awareness of the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition:

(a) Organization of an annual public forum, in cooperation with the Association of Space Explorers and other interested intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to inform the general public of past, ongoing and planned space activities and the future direction of such activities (1 in 2001);

(b) Implementation of a programme of visits by astronauts, cosmonauts and space scientists in cooperation with the Association of Space Explorers and other interested entities (1 in 2001);

(c) Assistance in organizing special events at Headquarters and/or in Vienna during World Space Week (2000-2001);

(d) Coordination of activities to be carried out around the world during World Space Week, including the preparation of reports to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space on the results of its activities, as appropriate, and assistance to the media and press to cover events during World Space Week (2001);

(e) Implementation of a programme, in cooperation with interested Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and private corporations, such as SPACEHAB, to provide opportunities for students of primary and secondary schools, in particular those in developing countries, to participate in ongoing human space flight activities (2001);

(f) Organization of a workshop for young professionals and students on various scientific and technological, legal and policy issues relating to space activities (2001).

H. Strengthening publication and information services

26. In order to support the initiative described in paragraph 25 above, which is to increase the awareness of the general public, in particular young people, of the contributions of space science and technology to the betterment of the human condition, as well as of the efforts being made by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its subsidiary bodies in promoting the

peaceful uses of outer space, the Office proposes to strengthen its public and information services through the following activities:

(a) Improvement of the database of information furnished in accordance with the Convention on Registration of Objects Launched into Outer Space (resolution 3235 (XXIX), annex) to make it available on the web site of the Office with an on-line search capability in user-friendly format (2000-2001);

(b) Development and implementation of an interactive multimedia education service for the general public, in particular for students of primary and secondary schools, consisting of the following:

(i) Development of a web page to provide basic information on various subjects relating to space science and technology in simple language and with sound and images (2001);[6]

(ii) Preparation and dissemination of CD-ROMs containing multimedia educational materials on various subjects relating to space science and technology (2001);

(iii) Creation of a public on-line question-and-answer forum, to respond to public inquiries on-line or to refer users to experts in space-related organizations (2001);[6]

(iv) Organization of on-line interview sessions, in collaboration with interested space agencies, to link students, in particular those in developing countries, with astronauts and cosmonauts during scheduled sessions (2 or 3 sessions in 2001).

IV. Conclusion

27. The Office carries out a number of activities, as projected in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001, to support the work of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, to develop the indigenous capability of developing countries in the use of space science and technology within the framework of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, to promote inter-agency coordination and to disseminate information on the work of the United Nations in the area of space science and technology and on the latest scientific, technological, policy and legal developments in space activities, for the benefit of Member States, international organizations and the general public. However, the activities proposed in the plan of action aimed at strengthening the role of the Committee and its subsidiary bodies, initiating a capacity-building programme in areas relating to space law, strengthening and initiating new activities of the United Nations Programme on Space Applications, promoting the use of space technologies within the United Nations system, establishing and strengthening the partnership with industry and with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and initiating a public outreach programme and a programme for young people have not been included in the programme budget for the biennium 2000-2001. The Committee may wish to recommend that the Secretary-General implement the measures and activities proposed above, pursuant to resolution 54/68.

Notes

[1] A/CONF.184/6.

[2] Ibid., chap. I, resolution 1.

[3] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.00.I.16.

[4] The mandate of the Programme consists of the following: (a) promotion of greater exchange of actual experience with specific applications; (b) promotion of greater cooperation in space science and technology between developed and developing countries as well as among developing countries; (c) development of a fellowship programme for in-depth training; (d) organization of seminars on advanced space applications and new system developments; (e) stimulation of the growth of indigenous nuclei and an autonomous technological base; (f) dissemination of information on new and advanced technologies and applications; and (g) provision or arrangements for provision of technical advisory services on space application projects, at the request of Member States or any of the specialized agencies.

[5] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/54/6/Rev.1), vol. II, sect. 6.

[6] The activity would be continued into the biennium 2002-2003.

[7] Pilot projects to be developed in 2001 to introduce the use of space technology in disaster management could be implemented in the biennium 2002-2003 in developing countries.